

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace paragraph on page 13, lines 7-21 with the following rewritten paragraph:

the column comprising along its length at least first and second length segments of different materials with an abrupt epitaxial diametral material boundary disposed between the first and second segments, wherein the transition between the composition of the different materials of the first and second segments occurs over an axial distance of not more than ten, such as not more than eight diametral lattice planes. Preferably, the transition between the composition of the first and second segment occurs over an axial distance of not more than 6, lattice planes, preferably not more than 5 lattice planes, still more preferably not more than 4 lattice planes, still more preferably not more than 3 lattice planes, still more preferably not more than 2 lattice planes and most preferably not more than one lattice plane.